

India's Muslim Empires

I. The Delhi Sultanate

A. The Sultan of Delhi defeats the Hindus

1. Muslim Turks and Afghans push into India around 1000.
2. Delhi becomes Muslim capital in late 1100s; sultanate rules 1206–1526.

3. Muslims have superior military, face weak Hindu princes, and gain converts.

B. Muslim rule changes Indian government and society

1. Sultans introduce Muslim traditions and use immigrants as soldiers or officials.
2. Trade increases.
3. Mongols invade in 1398; India divides into Hindu and Muslim states.

II. Muslims and Hindus Clash

A. Hindu-Muslim differences

1. Hindus worship many gods and support castes.
2. Muslims worship single god and support equality.

B. A blending of cultures

1. Hindus pay tax, can practice religion; some rajahs rule.
2. Some Hindus convert to Islam.
3. Muslims absorb Hindu customs; new language and religion develops.

III. Mughal India

A. Babur founds the Mughal dynasty

1. Remaining Delhi sultanate is defeated.
2. Mughal dynasty rules 1526–1857.

B. Akbar the Great

1. Reigns 1556–1605; creates strong central government with paid officials
2. Promotes peace through religious tolerance
3. Modernizes army and encourages trade

C. Akbar's successors

1. Son's wife, Nur Jahan, manages government well and supports culture.
2. Shah Jahan, Akbar's grandson, rules at height of Mughal culture and builds Taj Mahal as wife's tomb.